

Usborne Phonics Readers



# Fox on a box



Russell Punter  
& Stephen Cartwright





# Fox on a box

Russell Punter

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There is a little yellow duck to find on every page.







“I need a tasty treat,” thinks Fox.  
Among the trees, he sees a box.



Fox hops on top.  
It helps him reach...

...a sweet and  
juicy golden  
peach!



Oh no! Poor Fox slips off instead.



The peach lands, 'SPLAT!' right on his head.



Now Fox sees eggs inside Hen's nest.



“She won’t miss one. I’ll leave the rest.”



Fox clambers up to nab a snack.



He's almost there, when Hen flies back.



Hen clucks loudly with a frown.  
So Fox lets go...



...and tumbles down.





Fox sees a bees' nest in a tree.  
"I'll take some honey for my tea."



The nest falls down  
and out bees pour.



Poor Fox gets stung.  
His skin feels sore.



“I wish that I could catch a fish.”



Fox licks his lips. His whiskers twitch.



A fishing rod is quick to make.  
Fox puts his box beside the lake.



Hungry Duck tugs on his line.  
“Keep off!” she cries.





Fox looks around the streets nearby.



Then he smells something way up high.

Look! Ted's three steaming pies are fine.  
Fox reaches up...



Mmm, this  
one's mine!



But Pup runs by and hits the box.



“Watch out, you’ll knock me off!”  
shouts Fox.

Fox lands, head first, inside the box.

Are you okay?

Say something,  
Fox!

Jake's  
Bakery





“A fruit cake broke my fall. I’m fine.



My treat was with me all the time!”

# Puzzles

## Puzzle 1

What does Fox want in each picture?

1.



2.



a peach

honey

a pie

an egg

3.



4.



## Puzzle 2

Which box contained the cake?

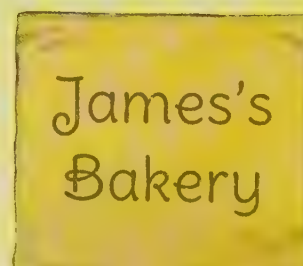
1.



2.



3.





### Puzzle 3

Where is Fox?



on the box



beside the box



in the box

### Puzzle 4

Which five things are not in the picture?

Fox	pie
peach	Hen
wall	bee
nest	eggs
honey	Pup



# Answers to puzzles

## Puzzle 1

1.



a pie

2.



an egg

3.



honey

4.



a peach

## Puzzle 2

Box number 2  
contained the  
cake.

Jake's  
Bakery



## Puzzle 3



beside the box



in the box



on the box

## Puzzle 4

These five things are not in the picture:

peach

honey

pie

bee

Pup



# About phonics

Phonics is a method of teaching reading used extensively in today's schools. At its heart is an emphasis on identifying the *sounds* of letters, or combinations of letters, that are then put together to make words. These sounds are known as phonemes.

## Starting to read

Learning to read is an important milestone for any child. The process can begin well before children start to learn letters and put them together to read words. The sooner children can discover books and enjoy stories and language, the better they will be prepared for reading themselves, first with the help of an adult and then independently.

You can find out more about phonics on the Usborne Very First Reading website, **usborne.com/veryfirstreading** (US-readers go to **veryfirstreading.com**). Click on the **Parents** tab at the top of the page, then scroll down and click on **About synthetic phonics**.



## Phonemic awareness

An important early stage in pre-reading and early reading is developing phonemic awareness: that is, listening out for the sounds within words. Rhymes, rhyming stories and alliteration are excellent ways of encouraging phonemic awareness.

In this story, your child will soon identify the *o* sound, as in **fox** and **box**. Look out, too, for rhymes such as **reach** – **peach** and **wish** – **fish**.



## Hearing your child read

If your child is reading a story to you, don't rush to correct mistakes, but be ready to prompt or guide if he or she is struggling. Above all, give plenty of praise and encouragement.





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# Fox on a box

This engaging, eye-catching series makes learning phonics fun. Each story introduces beginner readers to a wide variety of phonemes in a friendly, rhyming tale. Charming illustrations by Stephen Cartwright bring the stories to life, encouraging young readers to return to them time and time again.

To hear the  
story, scan  
the QR code.



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